

WHEN THE SPAVIN CAME.

It Ended the Brilliant Career of the Park Police Horse.

The fall from grace of a police horse that had taken the blue ribbon at the national horse show is told by Sewell Ford in "Horses Nine" as follows:

For a whole year Skipper was the pride of the force. He was shown to visitors at the stables; he was paraded on the nose by the mayor. The chief, who was a bigger man than the mayor, came up especially to look at him. In the park Skipper did his tricks every day for ladies in the dress, who exclaimed, "How perfectly wonderful!" as well as for pretty newsmen who gazed and said, "Now, did you ever see the likes of that, Noma?"

And then came the spavin. Ah, but that was the beginning of the end! Wore you ever spavin? If so, you know how it feels. If you haven't been, there's no use trying to tell you. Rheumatism? Well, that may be bad, but a spavin is worse.

For three weeks Reddy rubbed the lump on the hock with stuff from a brown bottle and hid it from the inspector. Then one black morning the lump was discovered. That day Skipper did not go out on post. Reddy came into the stall, put his arm around his neck and said "Goodbye." In a voice that Skipper had never heard him use before, something had made him thick and husky. Very sadly Skipper saw him saddle one of the newcomers and go out for duty.

OWLS IN WINTER.

Where They Hide and How They Hunt for Food.

Owls are much commoner in winter than in any other season. The occasional specimens which are seen abroad in the daytime. If we searched the hollow trees systematically every morning, we should probably discover several screech owls and perhaps some of the larger species. We might be surprised to find some of the screech owls red and others gray, and the early ornithologists, we might conclude that the difference in color was due to difference in age or sex. It is now known that there are two distinct color phases of this species not dependent on either age or sex, though just what they are dependent on is not yet known.

When taken from their retreats in winter, these birds frequently feign death, shutting their eyes and lying perfectly still in the hand. By and by, when they find that their little ruse does not succeed, they will snap their bills and bite and scratch in a solemn but very effective manner. How they manage to get enough to eat on the dark, cold nights is a mystery to those unacquainted with the woods; but, as a matter of fact, there is more prey abroad on winter nights than is generally supposed. Wild mice are very numerous, a fact which is attested by their footprints on the newly fallen snow, and owls are most expert mouse catchers. Their hearing is so acute that not a squeak escapes them, and they themselves are so soft on the wing that they do not alarm the game.—Woman's Home Companion.

He Won His Bet.

The infant had but to be bud against his will, and having got there, showed no inclination to go to sleep. He called his mother in to kiss her good night once more, to give him a glass of water, to put another cover on the bed, to tell her something very important, to ask her how to spell North Carolina and to explain why he happened to be her little boy instead of Aunt Bertha's. Finally she rebelled.

"You simply must go to sleep," she commanded sternly. "I shall not come into this room again tonight." She retired to the next room, and before long he called her.

"No, I'm not coming. Nothing will induce me to come to you again."

"I'll bet I can make you come," boasted the youngster.

"I'll bet you can't," replied the exasperated parent.

There was a pause, and then the small voice, raised to its utmost, exclaimed, "The devil and his works!" He won his bet.—New York Post.

Leeches as Weather Prophets.

A common leech makes a good barometer. Fill a tumbler half full of water, put the leech into it and tie a piece of muslin over the top to keep the leech from getting out. All you have to do to find out what sort of weather we are going to have is to watch the little creature. For example, when the day is to be fine the leech will remain at the bottom of the glass, curled up in spiral shape and quite motionless. If rain may be expected, it will creep to the top of the glass and stay there until it clears off. If the leech twists itself and is very restless, there is going to be a windstorm. If it keeps out of the water for several days, look out for a thunderstorm. The indications for frosty weather are the same as for fine and for snow the same as for rain.—Toledo Blade.

Pat's Puzzle.

Five or six men were recently chatting in a village inn when one of them said:

"I say, I bet ye dinners all round ye can't tell me the answer to a puzzle I know of."

"Done," they said. "I bet we can. What is it?"

"Well," said Pat, "why is a journalist the funniest creature in the world?"

After vainly trying for about two hours they sadly said they must give it up.

"Why," said the delighted Pat, "because his tale comes out of his head, don't it?"—Spare Moments.

Willie and His Politeness.

Willie (reading his verse at Sunday school)—"And they took Joseph's coat, killed a boy and dipped the coat in the blood."

"Now, Willie," said the teacher, "you know the text reads 'killed a kid,' not a boy."

"Yes, but didn't you tell us it is vulgar to say 'kid' when talking about little boys?" replied the apt scholar, beaming with delight at his good memory.—Philadelphia Telegraph.

A Good Fall.

"How does young Swift manage to uncock so much champagne? He doesn't earn any money."

"Well, he pulls the same cork over and over."

"Why, how do you mean?"

"Has a hard nut with a cork leg?"—Boston Transcript.

Not Without Reason.

Sunday School Teacher—Well, who was sorry at the return of the prodigal son?

Little Girl—The fatted calf.—Boston Christian Register.

Every city should study its own opportunities for beautifying its surroundings and improve them.—Hartford Post.

LIZARDS IN SAMOA.

The Way They Shed Their Tails and Fool the Kittens.

A writer of Samoa writes in an interesting way of the lizards, little fellows about two inches long, prettily colored in a light and dark shade of brown. They can run up a window pane quite as easily as can the flies on which they feed.

"When alarmed, the lizards are off like a flash of light and will take the most reckless leaps. I have seen them land safe at the end of a twenty foot jump. Yet when cornered they have no hesitation in snapping off the most of their tails.

"That was a maddening puzzle to my small cat. The sight of a mo'a anywhere was an immediate challenge to start on the hunt, for the most part a fruitless chase, for the little lizard could skulk off faster than two cats could pursue. Yet when the kitten did succeed in landing on the lizard there followed a scene of bewilderment.

The mo'a invariably snapped off its tail, which was left wriggling in one part of the veranda, while the lizard ran off at a short distance and awaited developments.

"The kitten never knew whether to catch the lizard or the tail. If the mo'a moved, the kitten went for it, but she always stopped short to keep an eye on the wriggles of the tail. As soon as she turned back to take care of the tail the mo'a got in motion and had to be looked after. Hundreds of times I have watched the dilemma, and the ending was always the same—the lizard got away and the kitten had to be content with the bony tail. But there were lots of lizards about my house sporting new tails."—Youth's Companion.

HE FOLLOWED THE KING.

It Was a Long Chase, but the Consul Was Tactful.

"A consular vacancy occurred in one of the group of islands of the south Pacific," said a Pacific coast federal judge. "I commended a friend for the vacancy. He was appointed, and, as it was imperative he should reach his post at the earliest possible day, he sailed from San Francisco with the understanding that his commission should follow him and that he should take the oath of office before a local magistrate after he had arrived. Well, the new consul sailed, and it was six months before the state department heard from him. He reported there was no local magistrate and inquired of the secretary if he could not take the necessary oath before the king. The secretary wrote him in the affirmative, and it was several months later when another letter came, this time by sailing ship, after going around the world. It contained the graphic information that the consul had joined the king and taken to the brush. Should the consul follow him? Against he was given an affirmative answer. The archives of the state department will show that he eventually located this south sea island king in the brush, was sworn in and, after the lapse of nearly two years from the date of his appointment, was fully qualified to enter upon his consularship."

Wetting a Wheel.

Once when Chief Justice John Marshall was driving in Virginia he found that the tire on one of his wheels was loose and kept slipping off. He didn't know a great deal about common affairs, for he had not lived much with the common affairs of life, but he did know that water would tighten a tire on a wheel. So he came to a little branch and drove into it and got one little section of the wheel wet, then drove out and backed his horse, and the water part of the wheel went on the same part again, and he pulled back and kept seeing backward and forward, all the time getting the same part of the wheel wet. While the judge was bothering himself about how to get the wheel wet a negro came along, and, seeing the situation, told him to back into the water again. He did so, and the negro took hold of the spoked wheel and, turning it around directly, and wet all around it. Judge Marshall said, "Well, I never thought of that." The darky replied, "Well, some men just nat'ly have more sense than others anyhow."

Elephant Love.

A pathetic story of intelligence and affectionate solicitude of an elephant creature. For example, when the day is to be fine the leech will remain at the bottom of the glass, curled up in spiral shape and quite motionless. If rain may be expected, it will creep to the top of the glass and stay there until it clears off. If the leech twists itself and is very restless, there is going to be a windstorm. If it keeps out of the water for several days, look out for a thunderstorm. The indications for frosty weather are the same as for fine and for snow the same as for rain.—Toledo Blade.

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BILLIARDS FOR WOMEN.

According to Shakespeare, Cleopatra Played the Game.

In France a gentleman is not ashamed to take his wife to see a professional billiard game. Frenchwomen are good billiard players and like to see all the fancy shots made by professionals as soon as they begin to attract attention. They read the billiard news in the daily papers and subscribe to journals published especially for billiardists. According to Shakespeare, women have played billiards from the time of Cleopatra. In 30 B. C. he makes the Egyptian queen queen Cleopatra play billiards. Mary, queen of Scots, was passionately fond of the game. On the evening preceding her execution she wrote to the archbishop of Glasgow that her billiard table had been taken away from her as a preliminary step to her punishment. The Empress Josephine used to rouse Napoleon from his gloomy moods by a game of billiards. Adeline Parli became disgusted with her English table and had one made in New York for which she paid \$2,500.

The efficacy of billiards as a health resort is beyond dispute. The motions gone through will reach every part of the body and operate on the entire system. They completely dispel languor and "that tired feeling." The tension of the muscles is tested and the blood sent in swifter circulation through the veins.

He Left the Stage at Hither.

At an auction sale that has a far the best part of a week the auctioneer's throat began to trouble him greatly, and to save himself as much as possible he had one of his employees read off the number and name of each article as it came up for sale. The assistant's pronunciation of such words as "marqueterie," "frescos," "sever," "delicacies" and "beauxvais" was so wretched that the audience "got on to him," and all those who were not too busily engaged in making bids were reading their catalogues to follow the assistant's blunders. He met his Waterloo when he came to read "Bronze and ornamental clock, set of three pieces, supported by Egyptian figures, chiseled." And as he came to a full stop the catalogue readers burst into a roar of laughter that was inexpressible to the rest of the audience. The word "chiseled" which the assistant had refused to have a try at was "hieroglyphics."—New York Press.

Peculiarities of the Carnation.

The peculiarities of the carnation are such that under cultivation it has been made to take almost any character as to color or form of flower desired by the careful cultivator. It has been very popular with one generation of men and equally unpopular with the next. When in favor, the flowers increased in size, and the varieties became numbered by the hundreds. At one time fringed petals were in great demand and were secured; at another the smooth edged petals only found acceptance.

Two hundred years ago the gardeners thought the flowers imperfect if the calyx did not burst, and refractory flowers were knifed into fashion's line. But during the last 150 years the burst calyx has been deemed a defect, yet all efforts to prevent it in large flowers have not been wholly successful.

The First Plank Attack.

We have a record in the book of Joshua of "the stratagem whereby AI was taken." This tells us how 5,000 men were set in ambush behind the city, so that when the king of AI and his hosts were taken forward to the fight a flank attack was made with overwhelming success by the warriors of Israel.

Not less disastrous was the fate of Leonidas and his brave little band of heroes when the Persians at Thermopylae, led by a traitor, took them in the rear, 480 B. C.

It was by a masterly maneuver nearly 300 years later that Hannibal dealt the one of his heaviest blows against the Romans. Having concealed his brother Mago, with 2,000 horse and foot soldiers, among the reeds, he enticed the Roman forces across the river Trebia. The legions fought bravely and held their own until Mago, rising from ambush, attacked them in the rear and routed them.

The Meaning of Historio.

One of my artistic friends was upon a business visit to a picturesque district of Perthshire the other day. A little leisure was afforded him by the wait between trains, and he asked a native if there were any historic places in the neighborhood, so that he might spoil a film or two, with which he had loaded his camera. "No, there's no anything historic about the place. The battle castle up by there used to be historic, but it's no more historic now. What that battle individual imagined the word 'historio' to mean is not very apparent by the reply."—Glasgow Times.

Curious Death Custom in FHL.

The FHLs believe that in case a marriageable youth or maiden dies without having gone through with the elaborate nuptial knot tying ceremony of the islands his or her soul is doomed to wander about forever in an intermediate region between heaven and hell. When any one dies, man, woman or child, a candle is placed in the external eye of the corpse, the candle to be thrown at the tree which stands as a guidepost to point out the road that leads to heaven and the one that leads to hell.

Eyes at Different Ages.

The Stockholm museum possesses an interesting collection of eyes taken from human beings at different ages, which are cut across in such a way as to exhibit plainly the internal and external eye. It is easy to observe that the eye of a young child is as transparent as water; that of the youth a little less so; in the man of thirty the eye begins to be slightly opaque; in the man of fifty or sixty it is decidedly opaque, and in the man of seventy or eighty it is dull and lusterless. This gradual development of opacity is due to the increase of fibrous tissue and deposit of waste matter in the eye.

Flendish Revenge.

The burglar softly opened the door of the suburban sleeping apartment, slipped inside and searched the room thoroughly, but found nothing worth stealing.

"I'll get some satisfaction out of him, anyway!" he said.

Thereupon he set the alarm clock on the bureau for the hour of 3 and softly departed.—Chicago Tribune.

More Convenient.

Employer—Just file these letters for me, will you, Patrick?

Employee—Of can trim them off easier with a pair of scissors, sor.—Kansas City Independent.

Willing to Keep It Sealed.

Lawyer—The jury has brought in a sealed verdict in your case.

Prisoner—Well, tell the court that they needn't open it on my account.

SUNDAY IN OLD ENGLAND.

A Day of Feasting Under the Sanction of the King.

For a considerable period prior to the English revolution Sunday was a day of great festivity and much revelry in the old country. Incredible though it may appear, its observance was governed and ordered by a paradoxical royal declaration issued by James I. This document is generally known as the "Book of Sports." In its preamble it recites a royal rebuke administered to "some Puritans and precise people" for "prohibiting of unlawful punishing of our good people for using their lawful recreations and honest exercises upon Sundays and other holy days after the afternoon sermon or service," and then he refers to "the general complaint of our people, that they were barred from all lawful recreation and exercise upon the Sundays afternoon, which cannot but produce two evils, the one the hindering of the conversion of many, whom their priests will take occasion hereby to use, persuading them that no honest mirth or recreation is lawful or tolerable in our Religion which cannot but breed a great discontent in our people's hearts. The other inconvenience is that this prohibition barreth the common and meaner sort of people from using such exercises as may make their bodies more able for warre when we or our successors shall have occasion to use them."

Then follows the royal mandate "that no lawful Recreation shall be barred to our good People" and "the Bishop and all other inferior Churchmen and Churchwardens" and enjoined to "be careful and diligent, both to instruct the ignorant and convince and reforme them that are misled in religion." "Our pleasure likewise is that the Bishop of the Diocese take the like straight order with all the Puritans and Presbiterians within the same, either contraining them to conform themselves or to leave the country, according to the Lawes of our Kingdom and Canons of our Church." This declaration proceeds to define "lawful Recreation" as "Dancing, either men or women; archerie for men, leaping, vaulting or any other such harmless Recreation, including May games, Witsom-Ales and Morris-dances and the setting up of May poles and other sports therewith used. But without we doe have account still as prohibited all unlawful games to be used upon Sundays only, as Beare and Bull baitings, Interludes and at all times in the manner sort of People by Law prohibited. Bowling." A penalty was inflicted upon those who did not join in the Sunday sports, and no one could take part in them without first having attended divine service in the parish church, which was also enforced under pain of penalty.

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We have the goods both in price and quality, bought before the advance, 6,000 feet of floor packed from top to bottom, such as

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Strawberries.

Crates are now in Season.

One of the most novel as well as substantial strawberry crates now on the market is made by the Greenbush Mfg. Co., at Greenbush, Va., their postoffice is Parkesley, Va. One important point which all growers of berries will appreciate is in the fact, that they are putting thirty-three baskets in every crate thereby insuring plenty of cups. This is a home industry and is worthy of the patronage of the public. All parties using crates will do well to write the above named firm for prices which they will find in keeping with things in general.

They also wish to express their appreciation of all past favors granted them and kindly solicit a continuance of the same. They cordially invite the public to visit their works at Greenbush, Va., where they will receive a hearty welcome and be shown the many details of manufacture in connection with a strawberry crate.

Greenbush Mfg. Co.

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The White is King.

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IN General Merchandise our stock is always full, well selected and in great variety, and we carry in addition to above also Plows, Cultivators, 14 tooth Harrows and other Farming Implements, Hay, Flour, Potato Bed Frames, 6x8 Glass, Egg and Stove Coal 2,340 lbs. to the Ton, &c., also J. W. Masury & Son's Best Liquid Paints. We buy for spot cash and sell at the lowest margin of profit.

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